

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the Maine Department of Education will be collecting race and ethnicity identifications in a new way. This means that each school unit will change the way it asks for this information from parents and students.

Why is there a change?

- **Maine will be required to report to the US Department of Education using these new race and ethnicity codes beginning in 2010-2011.**
- **There are funding implications based on these identifications**
- **These new codes will be used by other federal agencies for reporting as well**
 - Civil rights compliance
 - Health collections
 - Special Services collections

This data will be used for informational purposes and will not be used against any student. In addition, the Maine Department of Education will only report race and ethnicity data to the US Department of Education in summary form. It will never be reported on an individual basis.



23 State House Station
Cross Office Building – 5th Floor
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 624-6600 [v]
(207) 624-6700 [f]
1-888-577-6690 [TTY]
<http://www.maine.gov/education>



Reporting Race and Ethnicity

A Guide for Parents and Students



A Two-part Question

Ethnicity:
(required answer)

*Is the individual
Hispanic/Latino?*

- Yes
- No

Race:
(required answer)

*Is the individual from one
or more of these races?*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White



I have already identified my child in the past. Do I still need to do this?

Yes, all students need to be identified using the two-part question for the 2010-2011 school year.

What will happen if I choose not to answer this two-part question?

A school observer will be required to make an identification for the child.

Ethnicity and Race Definitions

**Hispanic or Latino
Ethnicity:**

An indication that the individual traces his or her origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish cultures, regardless of race.

Race:

The general racial category which most clearly reflects the individual's recognition of his or her community or with which the individual most identifies. (More than one can be selected.)

American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliations or community recognition.

Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent. This area includes, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam

Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black or African-American."

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.

How will this information be protected?

A law known as **FERPA**, the Federal Education Records and Privacy Act, protects this information. Race and ethnicity information has the same protection as any other nondirectory information in a student's education record.